

REPORTS

OF THE


TOWN OF MILFORD,

FOR THE YEAR

1856-7.



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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SELECTMEN,
ENGINEERS,
OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,
AND
SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
OF THE
TOWN OF MILFORD,
MARCH 2, 1857.

MILFORD:
G. W. STACY, PRINTER, CENTRAL BUILDING, MAIN STREET.
1857.

REPORT.

OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES,

OF THE

TOWN OF MILFORD.

Amount of Town Debts.

State Treasurer five notes,	\$27000,00
Savings Bank Worcester,	9000,00
Widow Daniel Hunt,	2200,00
George Clark,	1000,00
Harvey Bradish,	1000,00
Eliel Littlefield,	1000,00
Chloe Ann Farress' two notes,	1100,00
James Cargill,	2300,00
David Cargill,	700,00
Justin E. Eames,	700,00
Charles A. Fisk,	800,00
Chester Walker,	200,00
Nabby Saddler,	100,00
Hiram Kilbon,	150,00
Horace Walker,	400,00

\$47650,00

Cash in hands of Treasurer,	\$9076,74	
Tax Bills in the hands of L. Hunt,	1638,60	
Tax bills in hands of P. D. Walbridge,	1829,43	\$12544,77
Balance against the Town,		\$35105,23

Dr. Leonard Hunt, Treasurer in account

From March 3, 1856, to March 2, 1857.

Amount of tax bills for 1856.	\$28706,86
Cash received of P. D. Walbridge,	5076,95
Received for rent of public buildings,	592,05
Sale of liquor,	733,24
Received for sundry licences,	143,00
Borrowed of Chloe Ann Farris,	160,00
“ Newell Nelson,	500,00
Received of State for statistical information for 1855,	130,00
“ O. W. Albee for school house lot,	25,00
“ Joseph Albee for school house and lot	125,00
“ P. D. Walbridge for note, horse sold,	50,00
“ for gold chain,	5,00
“ Grass on school house lot,	1,00
“ Town of Grafton for the support of insane,	201,50
“ State school fund,	270,43
“ John Mason for oxen,	125,00
“ Calvin Barber for stone posts,	2,00
“ State for Armory rent,	220,00
“ State for Militia,	405,00
“ Stone posts,	,50
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	\$37472,53

*with the Town of Milford,**Cr.*

From March 3, 1856, to March 2, 1857.

Orders drawn by the Selectmen,	\$17623,36
Paid notes and interest against the town,	4133,69
State tax,	1458.00
County tax,	1845.01
John Mason Committee on Town House,	58,67
John Corbett for taking census in 1855,	47,00
Robert Wilkinson “	83,00
L. Holbrook for insurance,	39,10
Military Company A. for services,	405,00
L. B. Felton for rent 1855,	18,00
Sundries for Town House,	1,75
Wm. P. Miller outstanding order,	6.50
Abatement of taxes,	1068,11
Uncollected tax bills for 1856,	1638,60
Cash in the Treasurer Feb. 28th, 1857.	9076,74
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	\$37472,53

The following orders were given by the Selectmen:—

For Schools.

For teaching schools,	\$4127,40
John Mason, for fuel to school house,	12,58
C. Patridge,	7,71
Hix and Waterman for Coal,	4,00
Clark Sumner “	115,50
N. Gaskill for Wood,	5,00
Whitman Holbrook,	10,50
Perley Taft,	2,13
N. Adams,	8,75
A. Taft,	9,68
Lewis Wood,	8,20
L. Maynard,	6,25
Albert Allen,	6,50
J. G. Gilbert,	5,12
Charles Wight.	8,75
A. Thayer,	9,00
John Corbett,	13,00
R. Claffin,	78,73
H. Balis,	7,25
Willis Gould,	15,00
Cutting Wood,	40,64
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	\$4501.69

Care of School Houses.

W. Wilkinson,	\$27,22
John Mason,	2,00
Daniel O'Neil,	1,00
Adam Supple,	3,80
Henry Pond,	1,00
W. R. Barber,	22,50
M. S. Walker,	4,00
Martin Fletcher,	2,00
A. F. Bragg,	6,00
John Dwyer,	,80
Noah Mason,	,70
S. B. Howard,	3,50
E. A. Bowker	20,25

George Hancock care of school house,	2,75
John E. Farrington,	1,50
A. Sturdvant,	1,50
G. B. Pierce,	4,00
J. E. Bowker,	8,62
Peter Moore,	1,50
H. F. Taft,	2,00
R. A. Fisher,	4,00
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	\$120,64

For Alms House and Support of Poor.

To Overseers for support of Poor,	\$2300,00
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Repairs of Roads and Bridges.

To Newton Daniels superintendant,	\$1720,51
E. D. Draper,	116,63
Joseph Reade,	66,83
Samuel Warfield,	51,75
John Mason,	8,18
Willard F. Barber,	26,55
Newell Phipps,	5,01
Patrick Smith,	3,00
Robert Colbert,	2,00
Terry Cane,	4,00
Dennis Bougham,	4,00
John Miller,	18,44
Asia Madden,	4,25
Chapin & Gleason for plank,	62,10
Horace Holbrook for 1855,	3,00
Abijah Howard,	2,00
Adam Supple for sharpening tools,	,75
Ira Ide for Grates,	20,37
G. R. Howard for repairs,	3,00
J. E. Eames do.	5,00
C. F. Eames,	10,00
Michael Connelly for care of team,	1,00
J. McWales for paying help,	18,97
E. D. Draper for repairs on Roads,	68,75
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	\$2226,09

Removing Snow from Roads.

To John Mason for 1856,	\$41,65
W. F. Barber,	12,38
Charles Pond,	3,25
C. H. Price,	7,75
Samuel Warfield,	11,00
Asia Madden,	1,00
Lowell Fales,	4,45
A. B. Vant,	2,00
Patrick McTague,	3,12
Joel Howard,	4,50
Lewis Phipps,	8,54
Michael Colony,	1,00
Thomas Mannin,	4,00
Theron Holbrook,	2,50
Jacob Willis,	2,50
Asa Wood,	2,50
John Corbett,	2,56
T. P. Howard,	3,37
Richard Carroll for 1857,	40,86
Willis Gould,	116,94
J. McWales opening roads and paying help,	39,62
C. Taylor,	2,00
Fleming Adams,	4,45
A. B. Vant opening roads and paying help,	27,59
Matthew Coughlin,	9,90
Obed Daniels opening road and paying help,	23,00
Newell N. Nelson,	7,49
Obed Daniels,	5,50
W. F. Barber,	34,04
J. R. Howard,	7,23
Daniels & Clark,	5,25
Amos Cook,	1,00
David Fisk,	4,50
N. M. Harris,	7,22
Joseph Reade,	24,87
Lewis Phipps,	64,45
Samuel Warfield,	27,25

To Theoron Holbrook, for removing snow,	15,39
Asia Madden,	9,00
Peter Callen,	1,25
John Corbett,	52,65
Albert Flagg,	1,98
Joel Howard,	10,79
Asia Wood,	,50
E. D. Draper,	5,87
Amos Howard,	5,00
Gharles Wight,	15,78
Newell Adams,	44,83
Jacob Willis,	2,75
George Fairbanks,	10,75
J. E. Eames,	5,25

\$753,02

Repairs of Public Buildings.

To Wm. H. Payton for setting glass,	\$1,87
J. C. Bradford for work on the old town house in 1855,	114,25
George Beatty for painting three school houses,	115,93
for setting glass,	17,60
George H. Kendall work on high school house,	168,06
A. B. Vant repairs on school house,	,75
D. H. Clark for setting glass,	19,50
A. I. Macy setting glass,	1,37
Fairbanks & Hussey for repairs on school house,	4,82
Amos Holbrook door spring to town house,	3,00

\$447,15

Side Walks.

To Batcheldor and Littlefield for work and stone,	\$95,28
Noah Mason for curb stones,	184,90
W. F. Barber for drawing stone,	50,46
Newton Daniels work and paying help,	100,00

\$430,64

Town Officers.

To Charles F. Chapin services as assessor,	\$59.19
A. J. Sumner,	52,50

Henry Chapin, for services as assessor,	54,00
Winslow Battles as school committee,	56,37
Leander Holbrook,	120,00
Lyman Maynard,	130,52
John McWales selectmen services,	76,49
Obed Daniels,	78,00
A. B. Vant,	75,00
Wm. Slocumb for board of health 1855,	10,00
A. C. Fay, 1856,	10,00
A. A. Cook,	11,88
Francis Leland,	26,00
C. F. Chapin for recording births, deaths and marriages,	102,46
Jesse Howard for returning deaths,	,80
Wm. McGlynn,	7,76
Wm. Miller,	3,90
Charles McWales services as constable,	18,08
P. D. Walbridge for collecting taxes,	10,53
Leonard Hunt,	270,68
L. Hunt for time and expenses paying interest,	50,00
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	\$1224.16

Fire Department.

Order to A. C. Withington Clerk, paying Engine men for services,	\$1250,00
Incidental expenses,	500,00
Reservoirs,	1450,00
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	\$3200,00

Gas Expenses.

G. M. Dimmock, Agent for the Gas Company,	\$408,20
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Incidental Expenses.

Edward Ross for surveying,	4,00
A. B. Underwood counsel fees 1855,	1,66
L. Hunt for witness fees,	4,39
J. N. Lilley for repairing Hearse,	4,50
Michael Burk for Bank wall,	6,75
A. F. Adams for hand cuffs,	5,50

Leonard Hunt bills paid Hospital Worcester,	234,14
Taunton “	15,02
S. Thayer for desk to court room,	4,13
D. B. Rockwood repairs on hearse,	15,29
John McWales for keys to town house,	1,00
G. W. Stacy for damages sustained on road,	6,75
Otis Vinal for hand cuffs,	5,63
Clark Ellis for grate to lock up,	19,00
Barney L. Harris for services,	1,50
Leonard Hunt,	2,00
Charles McWales,	1,50
Nelson M. Harris,	1,50
E. A. Bowker distributing envelopes,	1,50
A. C. Withington 1855 “	1,00
J. C. Hill for repairing lock,	1,00
G. B. Pierce for coal to town house,	7,50
H. Goodrich for removing lamp post,	9,50
Richard Carroll for stone posts,	8,33
Leonard Hunt paying militia,	405,00
J. G. Harrington watchman,	75,00
S. D. Steel,	25,00
Otis Kilbon for repairing clock,	,75
Ellis & Howard for brooms to school houses 1855,	7,75
M. B. Bullard for school books, 1855,	26,23
G. W. Stacy for school books 1856,	24,05
H. O. Lothrop for sundries for schools,	3,37
H. G. Lee for a map for high school,	12,00
P. P. Fields for stoves for school houses,	25,25
Methodist society for land damage the laying out of Ex. st.,	5,00
Francis Leland do.,	2,00
Ella and Gersham Twitchell land damage in laying out of Chessman st.,	50,00
H. Goodrich for gas repairs.	2,17
Leonard Hunt for iron safe,	90,00
J. C. Bradford for pointing tombs by order of board health,	11,75
Amos Holbrook for surveying,	12,50
G. B. Pierce for sundries to town house,	4,46
Abel Littlefield repairing pump,	,50

Leander Holbrook for Insurance,	15,65
Willis Gould building tomb,	131,87
for wall round the south school house,	29,00
Leonard Hunt furniture to the town house,	,71
John Scammell for counsel fees,	2,00
Thomas Murphy for land damage in laying Main st.,	5,00
J. D. Whitman for stoves &c. for school houses,	65,50
G. B. Pierce for services,	15,00
liquor Agency,	320,83
Leonard Hunt for tax books,	1,25
Martin Fletcher for liquor agency,	36,22
George B. Pierce for the purchase of liquor,	126,20
William Miller for mowing burial ground,	5,00
A. D. Sargent for printing school report,	23,00
town warrants,	12,00
board of health,	15,20
town report,	24,00
George W. Stacy for printing and stationery,	23,00
school books,	14,47
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	\$2011.77

Recapitulation.

For schooling the youth,	\$4501,69
Support of poor,	2300,00
Repairs of roads and bridges,	2226,09
Removing snow on roads,	753,02
Side Walks,	430,64
Repairs on public buildings,	447,15
Fire department,	3200,00
Gas,	408,20
Care of school houses,	120,64
Town officers,	1224,16
Incidental expenses,	2011,77
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	\$17623,36

The Selectmen have attended to the financial affairs of the Town the past year, and the foregoing is the present situation of the same.

The Treasurers account has been carefully kept, and he vouches for all payments which have been made.

The Selectmen would recommend the following sums to be granted for the ensuing year:

For Schooling,	\$4000,00
For Repairs of Highways,	2500,00
To defray town charges and payment of town debt and interest,	15,000,00
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	\$21500,00

All which is submitted,

JOHN McWALES,	} SELECTMEN
OBED DANIELS,	
A. B. VANT,	
	OF
	MILFORD.

Milford, March 2, 1857.

REPORT.

OF THE

BOARD OF ENGINEERS,

FOR THE YEAR 1856,

From March 3d, 1856, to March 2d, 1857.

Receipts of the Fire Department for the year 1856.

Cash in Treasury March 3d, 1856,	\$20,43
received of J. D. Ambler for door,	125
received of the town Treasurer on order for pay of	
members of the department,	1250,00
town Treasurer on orders for building	
of reservoirs,	1450,00
town Treasurer on orders for inciden-	
tal expenses,	500,00
town for labor on highways,	16,50
R. Carroll for stones,	9,50
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Total amount of receipts,	\$3247,68
" expenditures,	3222,03
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Balance in the treasury March 2d,	\$25,65

Expenditures.

Cash paid Milford Gas Co.,	10.54
S. D. Steele as steward of Engine No. 2,	39.00
for sundries,	19.59
for labor,	1.00
J. D. Ambler for repairs on Engine house No. 1,	1.13
W. A. Hose Co. No. 1 for services,	150.00
Washington Engine Co.	500.00
Union Engine Co.	500.00
Board of Engineers,	100.00
Byron Carpenter as steward of Engine Co. 1,	13.81

Cash paid H. B. Thayer as steward of Hose Co. No. 1,	6.25
J. N. Lilley as steward of Engine Co. No. 1,	39.00
for sundries,	8.41
Allen Hallett for blinds for Engine House No. 2,	22.00
Hunneman & Co. for two torches for Hose Co. 1,	7.50
for repairs,	86.25
Wm. Tilden for Express,	1.94
M. H. Fay for tallow for Hose,	1.05
A. C. Mayhew for tallow and oil,	14.04
H. O. Lothrop for Neatsfoot Oil,	1.50
J. D. Whitman for ropes, &c.	9.98
G. W. Stacy for printing and Stationery,	1.40
L. C. Shepard as steward for Hose Co. No. 1,	18.75
for sundries,	1.51
A. C. Withington for sundries,	1.31
B. D. Jenks for repairs on Engine Houses,	72.55
Thayer and Brownell for Oilcloth coats,	6.88
T. B. Thayer for Oilcloth coat,	1.37
F. A. Johnson for repairs on Engine No. 2,	1.00
E. Woods for repairs of Engines, Hooks and Ladder, &c.	12.87
W. L. Young for varnishing H. carriage No 1,	9.00
R. Folger for repairs on Engine Houses,	6.95
F. Adams for labor,	1.25
Fairbanks & Hussey for sundries,	1.75
J. C. Bradford for repairs on Engine House,	8.02
Clark Sumner for coal,	38.75
for repairs on Hook and Ladder carriage,	14.70
for building reservoir at Noth Purchase,	398.87
near A. B. Vant's,	619.83
for material and lahor on reservoirs near J. N. Lilley's and the Bank,	279.67
for Derrick,	155.06
Green & Adams for repairs on Engine No: 2,	1.50
W. F. Barber for wood,	10.72
Wm Miller for labor,	.33
J. L. Manning for repairs on Engine No. 2,	7.00
watching fires,	18.00
Total amount of Expenditures,	<hr/> \$3222.03

The Department was called out the past year, fourteen times by alarms of fire; eight times for actual fires; twice by the upsetting of fluid lamps; twice by the burning of chimneys, once by the rekindling of ruins of previous fire; once by false alarm.

Amount of property destroyed by fire the past year,	\$33275.00
Insurance on the same,	16500.00

Total amount of loss above insurance,	\$16775.00
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Number of lives lost by fire, was one.

The Board of Engineers would beg leave to present the following schedule of the Department, with some recommendations for the same.

The Department comprises the followiug, viz: 2 Engine-houses, 2 Engines and Apparatus, 1 Hose Carriage, 1 Hook and Ladder Carriage and Apparatus, 1400 feet of Leading Hose, 125 men including the Board of Engineers, 10 Reservoirs located near the following named places—one at the Town House, one at Engine No. 2, one at Engine No, 1, one near the residence of C. Lawrence, Jefferson St., one on Central St., one on the upper Common, one near the residence of C. F. Chapin, one near the residence of Clark Ellis, jr., one near the residence of A. B. Vant, one at North Purchase.

RECOMMENDATIONS.—That the members of the Department be paid for their services same as last year, the completing of the two unfinished reservoirs, and the appropriating of \$1000 in addition for building new reservoirs, the purchasing of two Engines with five huudred feet of Leading Hose at the cost of \$2500.00; appropriating of \$1000 for incidental expenses, and the appropriating such sums as may be necessary for the purchase of land and building or renting of Engine Houses for the Department.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. B. VANT,
S. C. SHEPARD,
W. F. BARBER,
C. T. EAMES,
P. CORBETT,
GEORGE JONES,
E. ALDEN,
J. C. HUBBARD,
A. C. WITHINGTON.

BOARD OF ENGINEERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

REPORT.
OF THE
OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,
OF THE
TOWN OF MILFORD,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2, 1857.

WHILE our social organization continues to be what it is at present, we may safely reckon on having the poor always with us ; and while pauperism continues, legal provisions in some form or other, will be made for its support and relief, unless some great change should take place in the public mind in regard to the subject. Undoubtedly whatever can properly be done, should and will be, to prevent pauperism. Social influences being brought properly to bear upon the mind, may do much ; legislation may perhaps accomplish something to dry up the sources of poverty. But while we find it actually among us, we must not refuse to relieve it, although we may clearly see that it might and should have been prevented.

Since the last annual report the state legislature have made alterations in the laws in relation to the state paupers, and for the support of the poor, not having settlements within this state. Experience can only determine what is to be the practical effect of this plan for the relief of paupers of this character. There seems to be strong ground to believe that it will not diminish the burden now felt, and which presses heavily upon the people of towns like our own; the larger places being compelled, under the present system, to bear more than their proper share of the burden.

This law, it will be perceived, looks only to the relief of state paupers. We shall still need larger provisions by the town for the support of the poor who are not embraced under this law. We find that there are a great many persons here who have and will gain for themselves settlements under the fourth rule as prescribed,

although they may not be worth a single dollar of any kind of property that is, or ever will in reality be their own. Such cases are multiplying almost daily; and it will be seen by a moments reflection, that in this growing town, there are a great many persons, who have small estates, and actually live on them, who have not paid but a small sum toward the amount agreed upon with the original owners. After two or three years of high prices for the necessaries of life, and two or three dull seasons for their labor, the only remedy of relief offered such persons, is to give up the estate, which they hoped might be to them a home, and call on the town to assist in supporting their families. A number of just such cases have already been met, and many more are in prospect.

Now this state of things could and should have been prevented; in a great measure it may in future be avoided, if persons making bargains to sell real estate, will adopt the custom of giving a bond for a deed, until the purchaser is able to pay for the property, which is considered equally as safe for both parties.

You will observe that an alteration in the law requires the towns to carry all the state paupers to the state alms-houses at the expense of the town where sent from. If too sick or unable to be removed, or if taken down with some contagious disease, where it might cost the town a hundred dollars per week, all the town can get of the Commonwealth, would be three dollars a week at the extent—even though it might be a case of small pox or hydrophobia.

There have been in this town within the last year, a number of cases of sickness among the state paupers, which were very expensive to the town. The town will get but a small part of the expenditure in these cases back from the state. The number of state paupers for the last year has been large, and of course the amount must be heavy under all the disadvantages of the high prices of living. There has also been a large number of deaths among the state paupers; this has increased the state pauper account to a large sum, but the amount charged to the Commonwealth will be some reduction on the balance sheet.

In making up the state pauper's account, it will be seen, that as the law now is, the return must be made up to the first day of January each year, instead of the first day of November as usual, which will cover a period of fourteen months for this year. And as we

have added in from the first of January to the first of March, it covers a period of sixteen months, or one and a third years, for a part of the expenses of the state paupers. There have been 19 deaths and burials in this town of state paupers since the last return to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. There have been carried to the state alms houses at Monson and Bridgewater, 10 persons at the expense of the town. There have also been 16 cases of sickness of the state paupers, all of which we have charged to the Commonwealth, amounting to the sum of \$383,13 up to the first day of January 1857. Since January first there has been one death, and two persons carried to the state alms house; and four cases of sickness up to this time, which we have charged to the Commonwealth, amounting in all to \$406,16.

The Overseers have rendered some assistance to 182 persons not having any residence in this town, including men, women and children, amounting to the sum of about \$1000.

There has not been any uncommon or unusual occurrence in the Poor Establishment the past year, except in one instance, that of Stephen A. Nelson, who was at work in the State of R. I., and had his feet badly frozen. He was a number of days in getting to Milford, and it was found necessary on examination, to amputate all his toes at the ball of the foot; this was accordingly done in season to save the rest of the feet, and he is speedily recovering. There have not been but two deaths at the alms house the year past, that of Naoma Robinson 70 years of age, and Henry Duner, 67 years, both of them residents of this town. There have been 16 persons supported at the Milford alms house as inmates, averaged 14; and also 14 at the present time, all as well as can reasonably be expected,

The Establishment at the farm has been conducted by the superintendent, Mr. Whipple, and the Matron, Mrs. Whipple, in a manner entirely satisfactory to the board, and we believe all the inmates, nor have we heard any complaint from any source whatever.

The board of Overseers have rendered some assistance to 20 persons, such as could support themselves by having some relief of the town, at a less expense than to go to the alms house; they at the same time remaining with their connections and particular

friends. The number being rather larger than usual, we have paid generally about the same amount to each that has been paid in past years—on account of the high prices, in a few cases have paid them a little more. There has been one death among this class of paupers, that of Mr. Caleb Albee, well known by the old residents of Milford. Mr. A. and wife had been living in Holliston, for a few years with a grandson, Mr. Currier, at an expense of one hundred and four dollars a year for the two, and they drew a pension of about seventy dollars per year, up to his death; since then the widow is entitled to the same pension, and the Overseers have paid to Mr. Currier for her support at the rate of forty dollars per year.

The others have been assisted to amounts varying from fifty to six dollars and less, for each according to their circumstances and apparent need in the judgment of the board, amounting to about the same as the last year, \$937,00; these persons thus helped are all among their connections and friends. The Overseers have in most cases advised and recommended this class to remove to the alms house, where they might have all the attention and care their circumstances require. And they have also invited and requested this class of persons, as well as their friends, to visit the alms house and judge for themselves of the conveniences, regulations, order and neatness of the institution, and to see the difference now from what it was ten years ago. Since the state paupers are otherwise provided for, there are a number of rooms not occupied at this time, and the expense of the Establishment would not be but a little more than at this time; if there should be ten or a dozen more than there are now at the house, the opinion of the Overseers is that they would fare better than they now do at their present situations. They would also remark, that they have taken great satisfaction in the examination of the Establishment, Friday preceeding March meeting. We found the house in good order, the inmates contented in every respect so far as we could judge. The stock of cattle at the barn, the hay and all things there, were in as good condition as the season of the year and other disadvantages of managing such an Establishment, so far from the village, could be expected; as far as we could ascertain these matters were never any better.

The Overseers were pleased to find the barn well supplied with

hay and fodder for the stock ; the grainery well filled, and the cellar abundantly supplied with all kinds of meats, butter, cheese and lard in abundance for the use of the family, and some to spare.

In taking an account of the stock and produce, they find on hand at this time:—

1 good horse,	\$150,00	
1 yoke oxen,	125,00	
9 cows,	360,00	
5 shoats,	60,00	
About 20 fowls,	6,00	
12 tons of English hay,	225,00	
2 tons Meadow hay,	15,00	
1 ton oat straw,	10,00	
125 bushels potatoes,	100,00	
6 bushels beets,	3,00	
15 bushels turnips, cabages,	4,00	
2 bushels parsnips,	1,50	
300 lbs. of salt beef,	27,00	
600 lbs, of salt pork,	72,00	
300 lbs. of hams and shoulders,	36,00	
140 lbs. of cheese,	12,00	
40 lbs. of butter,	12,00	
5 bushels apples,	4,00	
1 barrel soap,	3,00	
100 lbs. of lard,	12,00	
20 lbs. sausages,	2,00	
100 bushels of corn,	100,00	
40 bushels oats,	20,00	
15 bushels rye,	15,00	
5 bushels of white beans,	10,00	
1-2 bushel garden beans,	1,00	
2 barrels of ears of seed corn.	4,00	\$1389,50

Also, the usual supply of farm tools and carriages and harnesses for doing the common business appertaining to the Establishment.

We have a sufficient quantity of wood cut and fitted for the fire, and in the wood house for one year, valued 50,00

We have also above 1 1-2 tons of coal on hand, and

2 tons at the coal yard paid for and to be delivered at
call of teamster, 30,00

Also the common supply of the necessities for the
Establishment; the Matron has on hand about eleven dol-
lars in cash, and owes about one-half of that amount for
curing bacon, &c.

Total amount of Stock &c. \$1469,50

We have paid out, \$3160,92
Received, 3010,22

Balance against the town, \$150,70

Charge against the Commonwealth for state paupers, 406,16

Charge to city of Roxbury, 10,00

Expenses of other state paupers, 593,26

Paid F. Whipple for last year, 33,33

outstanding debts 1855, 30,00

Keeping oxen for town, 100,00

Paid for Seth Albee to Hospital, 6,00

for one yoke oxen, 137,00

for three cows, 116,00

for farming tools, 20,00

for repairs on building; 20,00

for one horse, 150,00

for one yoke oxen, 125,00

\$1746,75

Whole expense, \$3160,16

Deduct for the last charges, 1746,75

Town paupers. \$1413,41

Deduct for those supported out of the alms house, 337,00

Cash for supporting at the alms house, \$10,76,41

Received for produce, \$3,34

for calves, 80,40

for yoke oxen, 180,00

for horse, 60,00

Received for 1 cow,	27,00
for 1 cow.	32,00
for 1-2 bushel beans,	1,33
for butter,	96,92
for oxen,	140,00
for boarding county convicts,	68,00
for state paupers,	133,00
from Hopkinton,	23,23
from Dorchester,	5.00
from orders,	2300.00
Total,	<u>\$3010,22</u>

All of which the Overseers humbly submit for your acceptance,

JOHN MASON,	} OVERSEERS
O. B. PARKHURST,	
LYMAN MAYNARD,	
	OF THE
	POOR.

Milford, March 2, 1857.

REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
OF THE
TOWN OF MILFORD,
FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR, 1856-7,

“Passing away!”—How legibly upon all earthly things is written—“passing away!” The school year 1856-7, for the short space of which you generously intrusted your School Committee with the guardianship of your schools, has passed away. If the effects of the efforts of that brief allotment of time, prove as transitory and fleeting as the year—if your schools are no better, your children no further advanced in useful knowledge and goodness, then the year passed by unmarked by anything useful to your schools, and the \$4500, the amount of your liberal appropriation a twelvemonth since, for the schooling of your youth, was spent to no good purpose. What the efforts of that year in behalf of your schools were, and what were their condition and progress it is now the duty of your Committee to relate.

You had fifteen public schools; eight in or near the village, and and seven in other parts of the town, in various directions from the village, and about two miles from it. These seven schools are known as the “Purchase” in the north, “Wild Cat” in the northeast, “Bear Hill” in the east, “South Milford” in the south, “Hopedale” in the southwest, the “city” in the west, and “Silver Hill” in the northwest part of the town. These names were not applied to these schools by your Committee; they are appellations, by which the severally designated parts of the town have been long known.

These schools were mostly small and ungraded, and for the last few years taught by females. Their respective lengths were, the Purchase 8 1-4 months, the Bear Hill, the South Milford, the City and Silver Hill, 7 months each, the Hopedale 5 3-4, and the Wild Cat, 5 months.

The Wild Cat was much the smallest of your schools, the whole

number of scholars in winter being but 15, and the average attendance 10, while in summer, the number of scholars attending was still less, the average attendance being but 6. The city and Silver Hill schools were also very small, the average attendance out of the whole number (26) being 18. The whole number of scholars in these schools was 242, and the average attendance both summer and winter, 170. The teachers though generally young, were successful, and the degree of improvement realized commendable; and so far as known, with one or two exceptions, general satisfaction was expressed.

There are in the village, besides the High School, seven schools; five Primary, one Intermediate, and one Grammar. The distinction however between the Grammar and Intermediate, it is believed, is more imaginary than real. It is a distinction which does not exist elsewhere in your state, and in the judgment of your Committee, one, that can be profitably dispensed with. All the benefits derivable from it, can be easily acquired, with proper classification and sufficient school room, in the primary schools. These schools were annual, and divided by former committees into four terms and vacations in a year; but from various considerations, your Committee the past year, arranged the terms and vacations of these and the High School as follows:—Commencing the first Monday in September, they continued twelve weeks, followed by a short vacation of one week—Thanksgiving-day week; then commencing the first Monday in December, they continued the same length of time, followed by one week's vacation as before; and then, beginning the first Monday in March, they were to continue uninterruptedly twenty weeks, and to be succeeded by a vacation of six weeks; making three terms of schooling in the year, two of twelve and one of twenty weeks, and as many vacations, two of one, and one of six weeks.

The Primary schools were in as good condition, and the progress made in them was as great, as could be reasonably expected. The improvement made in them the past year, will compare favorably with that made in former years—and in most instances the same teachers taught, that taught them the year previous.

There were in them in all about 650 children, though the average number attending through the year could not exceed 425.

Some dissatisfaction was justly expressed against the Grammar School, but so far as known, it was confined to the school under a former teacher. Under the skilful and persevering efforts of the present teacher, your Committee have great confidence that the condition of the school will be speedily improved. This school was a large one—too large for one school room, or to be regulated and governed by one teacher.

It may be unnecessary to state that the Intermediate School, continuing under the able guidance of its former teacher, fully maintained its previous, justly deserved reputation. Both this and the Grammar School are too large to be profitable, and should be made into four schools.

Mr. S. J. SAWYER, the Principal of your High School for several years, about a week previous to the time for commencing the fall term, resigned, and was succeeded by Mr. GROVE P. JENKS. Mr. J. has had considerable experience in teaching, and much is expected from his efforts. This school, particularly at the beginning of the terms, was very large, the room being filled to its utmost capacity. The number of different scholars who were members the past year must considerably exceed one hundred, though the average attendance for the year was not over sixty-nine.

It is evident that this school is not what the Legislature contemplated as a High School. It was never intended that the English studies usually attended to in the common schools, should be the principal studies taught in the High School. This should be a school in which your youth can acquire a more extended education than in the common schools—a knowledge of the higher English branches, and some knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, enough at least to fit them for college; and this your statute provisions require. Such however has never been the character of your High School. Although the Greek and Latin languages, and even the French language have been taught to a few, and some of the higher English branches to many more in this school, yet in most instances it has been done to the injury of the more essential and rudimental studies. It cannot be profitable or desirable to one, to spend his time in acquiring a knowledge of the higher branches of the mathematics, when he is ignorant of the first rudiments of arithmetic; or to endeavor to follow the track-

less orbits of the heavenly bodies, when he is ignorant of the commonest things pertaining to that upon which he lives ; yet, in this school, such instances are numerous. The difficulty arises from the admission of scholars before they are sufficiently qualified. In this matter your School Committees have been guided more by public opinion, than by their own judgment. Public opinion requires, and your school committees have been so instructed in town meeting, that the High School rooms shall be filled with such material as their is; that the capacity of your school room shall be the only limit to the admission. As you instructed your committees, so they have invariably done—the capacity of your school room has fixed the size of your High School ; and your school room, though large and ample, more than sufficient for any number of scholars who ought to be admitted, has proved wholly inadequate to accommodate the numerous applicants for admission to it.

This public sentiment has been most pertinaciously followed by individuals. After every nook and corner in your school room has been filled with seats, and a pupil admitted for every seat, your Committee have been assailed and blamed by individuals, because *their* children, *their* friends were not admitted. They said—in many instances truly—“such and such persons were admitted and we know that our children were as well qualified to enter the High School as they.” Persons well qualified to become members of the school, for want of room, must be rejected. This was manifestly unjust, and those suffering from it felt it deeply so; it was the natural, unavoidable effect of an erroneous system. It has inevitably followed, that the character of your High School in scholarship, has scarcely equalled that of a well regulated Grammar School. Many persons have obtained in the former the education which they should have acquired in the latter.

When your High School room is filled, the school is much too large for two teachers. Eighty or a hundred scholars with as great a diversity of scholarship as has existed in this school, cannot be profitably taught by two teachers. Fifty or sixty scholars are as many as two teachers can properly and profitably instruct in this school, and in the judgment of your Committee, as many as the true interests of education in this town require. In other words,

the population of the town, as the state of education now is, is not sufficiently large to furnish more than fifty or sixty scholars properly qualified at one time, to become members of such a High School as the provisions of your statutes require.

Education in this school, costs thrice as much as in any of your other schools. It costs the town about \$21 a year for every scholar who constantly attends the High School, while in the Grammar school, the cost per capita, does not exceed \$7, and in other schools it is still less. Now, those branches that can be equally well taught in both, should by all means be taught in the Grammar school. It would be foolish in one to pay A. \$21 for an article, when he could purchase the same, equally as good in every respect, of B. for \$7; yet this is precisely what the town has been doing, and is now doing in reference to education; it has paid \$21 a scholar in the High School, for schooling no better, than it might have had in the Grammar school for one third of that sum.

But the pecuniary view of this matter is not perhaps the most important. To educate in the High School those scholars who should more properly be educated in the Grammar school, injuriously effects both schools. The common English branches can be more thoroughly and more successfully taught in a well organized and conducted Grammar school, than in a High School. In the former these branches are the exclusive studies of the school; to them the education of the teacher has been mainly confined, and his duty as well as inclination, prompts him to give them his undivided attention. In the latter it is not so. Here the teacher stands on different ground. He has long since passed from these primary, rudimental studies for which he now has no taste or inclination, to higher regions of intellectual acquirements, and he will descend to the studies of his earliest school boy days, only when duty or necessity compels him. Here the common branches are not the main and legitimate studies of the school; the higher English branches, and the Greek and Latin languages should take precedence. It consequently follows, that where taste, inclination and duty all combine in favor of one of two classes of studies, in any competition between them, the other must be essentially neglected. Hence those scholars, who are unfortunate enough to get into the High School before they are properly qualified to pursue

the studies intended to be taught there, are doubly injured ; since if they attempt to acquire the qualifications which they should have obtained elsewhere, the teachers may feel little or no interest in them and neglect them ; or, if they enter upon the more difficult course of the higher studies, they soon discover to their deep disappointment and chagrin, that they have undertaken what they are by no means prepared for. They strive to get their lessons, but they strive in vain. They are kept after school, reprimanded, perhaps punished, to no purpose ; teachers are disturbed and vexed, and the whole school annoyed and discommoded by their presence. By humiliating experience they too soon find that their greatest efforts do not avail them ; they become discouraged and either leave the school in despair, or sink down into a listless indifference, from which the greatest exertions may not be sufficient to raise them. Such has been the experience of your Committee ; and they would say by all means, raise the qualifications of admission to your High School.

No scholar should become a member of the High School until he can read the English language fluently ; spell all common words orally or in writing ; write a legible hand ; has a thorough knowledge of the elements of Geography ; is familiar with the principles of Arithmetic, as far at least in your school arithmetics, as the rule of three or proportion ; and is thoroughly acquainted with the general principles of English grammar—can readily conjugate the verbs in all their moods and tenses, and parse common prose and poetry unhesitatingly ; all of which can be, and ought to be acquired before entering the High School.

Your Committee believe that much greater benefit would be derived from your High School, by establishing a course or courses of study adapted, as far as practicable, to the several wants and conditions of the scholars. What the course should be, would depend upon circumstances. It would be folly for a young lady, who is preparing herself to teach the common English branches only, and has scarcely time enough for this purpose, to commence the study of French or Latin, or even the higher branches of English studies. It cannot be profitable to any one, to commence the study of a foreign language unless he has time to spend, sufficient to acquire some lasting knowledge of it. What permanent benefit

could accrue to one who has but one, two or three terms to spend in study, to commence Latin or French? What useful purpose could be subserved, by permitting scholars whose time for attending school is not sufficient to acquire a knowledge of those branches of learning absolutely necessary to the humblest stations in life, to spend their brief allotment of time in the study of Algebra, Rhetoric, and kindred branches? Yet months and years have been spent in your High School regardless of circumstances, conditions or future purposes. Your young ladies who seek to become teachers of your children, have passed the best part of their school days in the study of French and higher branches of learning, to the great neglect of all those essential, elementary principles which they now offer themselves to teach! Your young men have graduated from your High School, by spending their last term, and that alone in Latin and French! The inevitable result is, they are well educated in nothing.

It has been thought that the facilities of acquiring an education are greatly increased by collecting and classifying scholars in large masses. The principle seems to be, that a teacher can instruct a class of fifty classified scholars as profitably as a class of twenty or ten. Experience has proved this to be fallacy. It assumes that one can learn as much by seeing and hearing others act, as he can by acting himself. It might as well be said that one could become an active, skilful gymnast, by witnessing gymnastic exercises; or, a master of eloquence by hearing the great Cicero speak. It was by daily *carrying* the growing calf until it became grown, that Milo was enabled to bear the ponderous ox. It is not what one sees others do that most improves him, but what he himself *does*. Take a class of fifty scholars in reading—they have time to read one short paragraph each; but if the class was only half as large, each scholar could read twice as much and twice as long; so in a school. The teacher in a school of 80 scholars, can hear them once a day; with half that number, she can hear them twice. It would therefore take one teacher about twice as long to educate 80 scholars as it would 40. Will you then employ another teacher and educate the 80 scholars in three years, or with one teacher, be six years in doing it? It appears to your Committee that every consideration is in favor of the former course.

The number of scholars that one teacher can profitably instruct,

will depend upon circumstances ; there should not be too many nor too few. Your Committee are satisfied that your village schools are much too large; and greater improvement would be realized by increasing their number even at the expense of their length ; this however is not necessary.

The practice, heretofore pursued, of employing assistant teachers in the manner which has been done, is not in the judgment of your Committee the most effectual. Instead of congregating a multitude of children into one large room, and keeping the whole school in constant commotion in going to the recitation room and returning, they should be accommodated with several smaller rooms, sufficient only to accommodate scholars enough for one teacher, who with her scholars should be confined to that room alone. Each teacher is then responsible for her own department only, and her own doings. But this subject will be further pursued under the matter of SCHOOL HOUSES.

The time has come when the prosperity of your village schools demands more school room. The past year there were about 900 different scholars, and an average attendance of about 650 in six of your village school rooms or schools. In Primary school No. 3, the whole number of scholars belonging to it at one time was 200. Seats intended for only two pupils had crowded upon them four. Every part of the school room was filled to compactness with children. A hundred and fifty or two hundred children, with faces and hands seldom, and bodies never washed; with garments saturated with dirt and the fetid humors of the body, crowded into distressing proximity in a school room moderate in size, and unprovided with suitable means of ventilation, form a school, which in an intelligent community cannot be long tolerated. Those who regard the health of their children feel, that to send them to such a school, is offering them a sure sacrifice to disease, and they will not knowingly do it, except under circumstances of the greatest necessity. No teacher can long breathe the tainted air of this school room and wear the hue of health.

Your village school houses were not constructed with the view of accommodating schools with principals and assistants. The rooms used as recitation rooms are small, inconvenient, uncomfortable and wholly inadequate to the purpose ; they are mere entries,

designed as places to deposite children's clothing. Primary school houses Nos. 1 and 4, are in a state of dilapidation, and need to be thoroughly repaired; which ought never to be done for the purpose of using them as school houses. To make No. 4 at all suitable for a primary school, the inside should be entirely reconstructed, as it was always unfit for this purpose.

You Committee regret that Primary School No. 2, was removed to the New Town House; there are many considerations against it, and few if any for it. In the first place, the town cannot afford it. The new town house is a valuable building. The money which this building cost, would be more than sufficient to build all the school houses you need. It is located in the central part of the town on Main st., on land too valuable to be appropriated to the use of schools, to say nothing of its value as a place for business, for which no locality in town has greater natural facilities. The use of one of these rooms for a school is practically about equivalent to the appropriation to the same purpose of all the rentable portions of the building. Who would want one of the capacious rooms in the lower story for the purpose of trade, if the other must be filled with a hundred and fifty school children? Who would take the basement for a grocery or other business purpose, if he is to be exposed to the daily incursions of a multitude of wild meddlesome school children? No building can be easily used in a civilized community, for purposes more destructive than that of schools; witness any of your school houses and their appurtenances. With the damage accruing to the building from the fastening of the school fixtures; from turning into a school room, a place, designed and constructed in every particular for purposes incompatible with that object; and from the ordinary destruction always going on in and about a school, it would have been far better for the town, had the building remained unoccupied. Besides, if it had not been for the school, some, if not all, of the rentable parts of the building, might ere this have been let to advantage. The interests of the town would have been more served, if there was to be a school on this common, to have had it in the old Town House, a place however wholly unfit for the purpose.

In the view which your Committee take of this matter, the time has come when there should be no school on either common. The school house on the upper common is far from accommodating the

wants of that part of the village. Over three hundred scholars attended school in that building the past year. The recitation rooms there are nothing but little entries, hardly sufficient to deposit the clothing of the scholars, yet large classes are huddled into them to recite. Many of the seats in the primary school room were not constructed for the use of small children, and they are inconvenient and uncomfortable; and there is no means of ventilation except by raising or lowering the windows, or opening the doors, which exposes more or less of the children to sudden colds. In short you have not in the village—except the High School—a school house which ought to be used as such any longer, than until you can furnish better ones.

The question of building new school houses is a highly important one, both in relation to the number and size of the houses, and to their location. In the consideration of this matter, the item of expense is material, but not the most so; a few hundred dollars additional expense should not weigh against additional conveniences and facilities for schooling your youth. School room to accommodate 1200 or 1400 children, would be sufficient probably for ten or fifteen years to come. The location of the houses will depend upon their number, which is first to be considered.

As your Committee view the matter there should be two school houses. The territory embracing the whole village, should be divided into two compartments, about equal in population, and a house built in each on that site which will best accommodate. The only objection to this, which seems to be at all tenable, is that of distance; some small children may have to walk too far. But this objection cannot be very material, when it is considered, that most of the children will have less than a quarter of a mile to walk, and very few indeed over a half mile, which is not farther than some of your children now walk; in fact, the children in the aggregate, will be better accommodated in this respect by the proposed arrangement, than by the present one. Now, the Intermediate and Grammar school scholars in some instances are obliged to walk from the extreme outskirts of the village, to the uppercommon and to the High School House, more than a mile, while by the arrangement here suggested, none will have more than about half of that distance to walk. And when it is further considered that very few

of your children attend school under five or six years of age ; that children, especially those constantly going to school, require a great deal of exercise in the open air, the objection of distance can hardly be material. Besides, it is designed that the Grammar schools—the Intermediate being abolished—shall be kept in the same houses with the Primary, so that the younger children will have the care and attention of the older, an object very desirable.

Although your Committee are opposed to having a larger number of scholars in one school room, under one teacher with an assistant, as is now the practice in your town, they are in favor of collecting at one locality as many as can be conveniently done. It is believed that it would cost much less to support six schools in one house, than in six houses ; to keep in repair one, though a large house, than six smaller ones ; to supply the necessary yards and appurtenances to one, than to six houses. The grading and classification of several hundred children in one large house, can be made much nearer perfect, and more effectual, than in six small ones, scattered about the village. The house should be divided into rooms in size sufficient to accommodate as many scholars as one teacher under the circumstances can profitably instruct and govern, and each room furnished with furniture, apparatus and other conveniences adapted to the class of scholars to be taught in it. Under such an arrangement, it is confidently believed the condition of your public schools, will be materially improved.

If your Committee might be allowed to suggest the localities which now seem to them the most convenient and desirable for new school houses, they would mention in the southwesterly part of the village, the lot of land recently purchased by the town, near the manufacturing establishment of Capt. Elbridge Mann ; and in the northeasterly part, the premises on the northerly side of Main st., near the junction of Pond with the former street. It may be said that the nearness of the latter to the water is a fatal objection to this site. But this objection does not operate to prevent people from dwelling near the water, much nearer than the premises in question ; yet no instances of childrens having been drowned, or having been in danger of being drowned, by reason of their living in close proximity to water, are known. A suitable fence around the premises, such as should be made around every school ground ;

and proper guards raised on each side of the bridge near by, would be ample security against all ordinary dangers of this kind.

WAGES OF TEACHERS.—No laborers in the community are more worthy of their hire than school teachers. None more deserve the "well done good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord," than the faithful school teacher. The immense, far-reaching influence of school teachers upon the present and future welfare of this beloved land, need not be here discussed. Their arduous, life-wearing labors continuous as the sun; their irritating perplexities daily renewed; the countless obstacles always opposing but never overcome, need not be here mentioned; every New England man *knows* the burdens, the duties, the responsibilities, of the honest, upright teacher. No man better knows than he, the value of the labors of such a teacher—and who more duly appreciates the wages of deserved effort?

In school teaching as in the other avocations of life, if you would have ability you must pay for it. The superior workman makes superior workmanship; the superior artist gives you the most valuable specimens of his art. There is a vast difference between Power's Greek Slave and a stone post; between the ability necessary to elaborate the one and hew the other; the difference in schools is no less striking. You may as well expect to obtain the Greek Slave for the price of a door stone, as to obtain a superior, first class school at the cost of an inferior one; as to obtain eminent and finished qualifications for teaching, without giving in return corresponding compensation. If you would have superior schools, superior ability must be employed to make them so.

It is a fact not very flattering, that the wages of school teachers in Milford are less than in any town in the vicinity. It costs nearly if not quite as much, to live here as in Boston, or in other large towns and cities in the state; yet the wages, paid to your teachers, are scarcely more than one half of what are paid to teachers in similar schools elsewhere. The merest assistant, in a Primary school in Boston, receives at least \$300 a year; in Milford, this same class of teachers have usually received \$132; Principals of Primary schools there obtain \$350 and \$400 in a year; here, the small sums of \$150 to \$200 has been the yearly stipend. To one who has to board and clothe herself, the trifling pittance of \$132 a year, or

\$2,53 per a week, is a ruinously inadequate compensation. Others of your Primary teachers have had less than \$3,00 a week, and but one of them as high as \$4,00. Take from these niggard sums \$2,50, or 3,00 a week for board, and it would puzzle one to learn how the recipients of such paltry wages can clothe themselves, excluding the numerous other little etceteras, without which one can hardly live. The truth is, the young ladies, who have served you as assistants in your schools, have means of support, other than these apologies for wages. They have had homes to go to; fathers and mothers to assist them. No young woman however well qualified, who must rely on her own exertions for support, can afford to teach school in Milford—she cannot live—she can do far better with her needle. Your servants are now more generously remunerated than the teachers of your children. It cannot be reasonably expected that talent and experience in teaching, can be obtained for wages so slightly remunerative. The town cannot be justified in educating its youth at the expense of individuals, as it evidently does, when the compensation allowed to teachers is not sufficient. *Pay* for qualifications and you will get them. Ability at whatever cost, is cheaper than ignorance at any cost. Let your compensation be amply remunerating, and your schools will be sought by the best teachers.

In this connection, your Committee cannot but express their regret at your action in a recent town meeting, in which you failed to add to the amount of your school appropriation. But few years ago your appropriations for the education of your youth, according to your means were among the most liberal in the Commonwealth. Since you first generously voted \$4500 as the annual sum which you were willing to devote to your public schools, your means have vastly increased, your valuation greatly augmented. Notwithstanding this; notwithstanding plenty and prosperity have generally smiled upon you; notwithstanding the means of living in almost every particular have been greatly increased, and the expense of sustaining your schools materially enhanced; this sum has not been raised; but the year 1857, will bear witness, that while in your other appropriations for town purposes, you have been liberal in their increase, that for the education of your children not only remains the same, but efforts were made to diminish it. Where

were the friends of education, of your public schools? What reasons exist for lessening the amount of school appropriations do not appear. At the time the school districts were abolished, and the schools in the village graded, the town adopted a report and recommendation of a committee chosen for the purpose, that the village schools with the High School, should continue 44 weeks in a year. This vote has never been recinded or repealed; so that the town stands legally and honorably bound to see that the schools be kept the forty four out of the fifty-two weeks, and that it appropriates a sum sufficient to do it. Can this be suitably and effectually done even with the sum of \$4500?

But it has been said "the schools are worthless;" "the money has been thrown away," &c. Will you then have no schools, or less schooling, because your schools may have been poorly administered? Will you kill the sick, or endeavor to cure them? Again it has been said, "your schools are too long;" "children become tired of going so long, and would learn just as much to go less." It is no uncommon thing for some children to become tired of going to school, even to the shortest schools. So do children become tired of work, but who thinks of confining them to labor six months in the year, then, of permitting them to run at large the other six months to relieve them? What reason or sense is there, in compelling children to study six months in the year, and in suffering them to omit all mental exercises the other six months? Is this a proper way to teach children—to teach them all you can in six months, and then to let them "slide" the other half of the year without instruction? It would be a foolish way of learning to play the piano to practice six only out of the twelve months.

The mind like the body is educated and strengthened by frequent and regular exercise. One could hardly expect to prepare a horse for successful action on the race course, or a wrestler for effective manœuvring in the ring, by exercising him for the purpose one half of the year, and by suffering him to remain quiet the other half. Exercise and rest must be frequent and alternate. So the mind is educated and strengthened by *daily* exercise and rest. So it has been said that your children, who constantly attend your annual schools "are too much confined." This in a very few instances may be true, but it is not because the schools are annual, nor prop-

erly, because the children constantly attend school ; for children may be too long confined in the school room or elsewhere, in *one day*. This would be wrong in the school room, it would be wrong elsewhere; wrong in a school of ten weeks, wrong in one of twenty. Children should *never* be confined too long in one position.

It is not the number of days in a year that the child attends school, which fatigues him, or improperly confines him ; it is what he daily performs ; the length of time he daily sits. His tasks and sittings should be graduated not by the year or by the month, but by the day—what can he do to day, how long can he sit to day without detriment ? What is just and proper for him to do to day, may, so far as physical effects are concerned, be justly and properly done every day. If evils of the kind here complained of, exist in your schools—and that they are common is denied—the remedy should be sought not in diminishing the length of your schools, but in properly regulating their administration.

Your Committee most firmly believe, that the interests of education, as well as the interests of your town, require no diminution in the length of your schools ; and that every dollar too little, which the town appropriates to this object, is twice that amount to it in loss.

There are other subjects of interest connected with your schools, worthy of your consideration, to which no allusion has yet been made, and to which your Committee intended to call your passing attention ; but the length of this Report is already so great, that they fear your patience will be quite exhausted in perusing what has now been imperfectly written ; therefore they will leave them in the hands of their eminent successors.

Although in their labors of the past year in behalf your schools, you have significantly told your late Committee that they have not merited your approval ; although you have stamped their doings with the impressive seal of your dissatisfaction ; yet, in reviewing the transactions of the year, they are consoled by the consciousness, that, in the execution of the manifold and often perplexing duties devolving upon them, they acted “ with an eye single ” to the welfare of your schools. Their measures might not have been the most judicious ; others might have done better, and been more satisfactory ; but they acted according to the “ light ” which they

possessed, and if they erred, the error was one of judgment, not of purpose.

With this Report cease the services and the duties of your late Committee. The high trusts which, one year ago, you kindly placed in their unworthy charge, you have properly withdrawn, and intrusted to stronger and abler hands ; you have done right. You have exercised a power which none more respects and honors than your late Committee ; and they rejoice and thank Heaven that they live in a land, where this power exists. They willingly lay at the feet of their worthier successors, the mantle of brief authority with which you clothed them ; but they sincerely regret that their public efforts in the management of your schools, were not deserving of your approbation. And although they cannot expect to hear the pleasing, gratifying welcome, "well done good and faithful servant," they thank the Lord, that their lot was cast in a land of Freedom, and Common Schools. The Common Schools! Schools for the people! The nurseries of Freedom ! O, sustain your Common Schools. Cherish them—improve them. They are the guardians of your liberties, the safety of your beloved land.

LEANDER HOLBROOK, }
 LYMAN MAYNARD, } SCHOOL
 WINSLOW BATTLES, } COMMITTEE.

